

FINANCIAL SECRETARIAT.

Directs the constitution of a Road Fund for road maintenance and development.

READ—

Letter No. 4483, dated 5th July 1928, from the Revenue Commissioner in Mysore, forwarding a statement showing the amount realised by the sale of the right to collect tolls on Provincial roads for the year 1928-29 and suggesting that the proceeds may be earmarked for the maintenance of roads of the locality, as far as possible, wherein the relative toll-gates are situated.

ORDER No. FL. 2578-667—G. F. 65-28-1, DATED 29TH SEPTEMBER 1928.

The question of improving the financial arrangements for the upkeep and repairs of all Provincial roads in the State so as to enable them to stand the present day traffic, has been under the consideration of Government for some time.

It has been represented to Government that the existing annual allotments aggregating Rs. 5,16,000 for 2,122 miles of Provincial roads are very inadequate for their maintenance, having regard to the present cost of labour and prices of materials and that it is not possible to recoat even one furlong in a mile in a year without supplementary grants being given to the department.

The existing arrangement of supplementing the annual allotment with additional grant for special repairs has not been found to be satisfactory, as the latter would vary with the exigencies of General Finance and the Public Works Department is not thus assured of adequate funds to undertake a continuous programme of special repairs. The rapid development of motor transport throughout the State has aggravated these difficulties. To restore the roads to proper condition, it is estimated that an aggregate amount of Rs. 10 lakhs is additionally required for special repairs during the next three years.

2. In view of these considerations, Government are pleased to constitute a Road Fund and to sanction the following scheme, calculated to provide adequate funds for an ordered programme of road maintenance and development.

3. The main features of the scheme are:—

(i) The realisations from tolls and the fees levied on motor transport will be definitely earmarked for expenditure on maintenance of roads (including bridges) and these receipts will be supplemented by suitable grants from general revenues so as to assure the Public Works Department with a minimum annual grant for expenditure on all works of communications—(Roads and Bridges)—Original and Repairs.

(ii) The earmarked revenues as well as the Government grant will be credited to the Road Fund to which the amount actually spent on communications during the year will be debited.

(iii) The grant unspent in a year will not lapse but will be available for expenditure in future years.

(iv) The Public Works Department will be assured of a definite annual grant for a period of three years, to enable it to draw up a programme of works and carry it out with the certainty of completing it.

(v) A committee will be formed in each District to suggest to the Public Works Department, what works should be taken up for attention each year and also to communicate its observations to the Departmental Officers as to whether the works have been properly executed.

(vi) Two separate Major Heads will be opened in the Budget and Accounts, one on the Revenue side for showing all items of receipts which should be appropriated for expenditure on communications, and the other on the expenditure side for showing all charges on communications (both original and repairs).

4. The following changes in the classification of heads will be introduced in the revised Estimates and Accounts of the current year:—

(1) A new head "XIX 'A' Communications" will be opened on the receipt side with the following minor heads:—

(a) Tolls on Bridges and Roads.

(b) Motor License fees (including Registration fees, Drivers' License fees, Conductors' License fees and fees for the issue of permits under Rule 30 of the Motor Vehicle Rules), license fees for possession and transport of petrol, fees for issue of Brake Certificates, and Bungalow fees.

(2) The new Major Head "23 'A' Communications" will comprise the following minor heads:—

I. ROADS.		
(a) Original Works	Major Ordinary.	Minor Special.
(b) Repairs.		

II. BRIDGES.		
(a) Original Works	Major Ordinary.	Minor Special.
(b) Repairs.		

III. ESTABLISHMENT.

- IV. Tools and Plant.
- V. Travellers' Bungalows.
- VI. Hill Stations.
- VII. Road Fund.

5. The aggregate amount allowed in the current year's budget for the different purposes, to be brought under the new head 'communications' is as under:—

<i>Communications.</i>		Rs.
Original Major Works	..	1,44,000
Do. Minor Works	..	19,000
Repairs Ordinary	..	5,16,400
Do. Special	..	1,51,600
Travellers' Bungalows and Hill Stations	..	36,800
Total	..	8,67,800

It is stated that a sum of Rs. 3½ lakhs is required annually for a period of three years for carrying out urgent works on account of special repairs. Against this demand, there is a provision of Rs. 1½ lakhs in the current year's budget. About Rs. 2 lakhs more will have to be given to Public Works Department annually for undertaking the programme of special works. An annual minimum grant of Rs. 11 lakhs will accordingly be allotted to the Public Works Department for a period of three years (including the current year) for all works coming under the new Major Head Communications excluding the expenditure on Establishment, Tools and Plant which will be transferred on a proportionate basis from head of "24 Civil Works."

6. To make up this minimum grant of Rs. 11 lakhs during the current year, a schedule of demand will, in due course, be placed before the Legislative Council for a supply of Rs. 2,32,200.

7. Separate orders will issue regarding the constitution of District Committees, their personnel and the functions to be exercised by them.

B. SRINIVASA IYENGAR,
Financial Secretary to Government.